

Wisconsin Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

by Larry Rausch

This article details those towns using the Wheel of Fortune postmark that I have identified for the state of Wisconsin.

In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

Here is where you can help... by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these Covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com. All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.

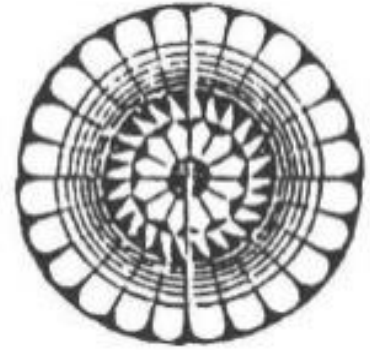


Fig. 1

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller (Fig. 1). Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below (Fig. 2) may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.

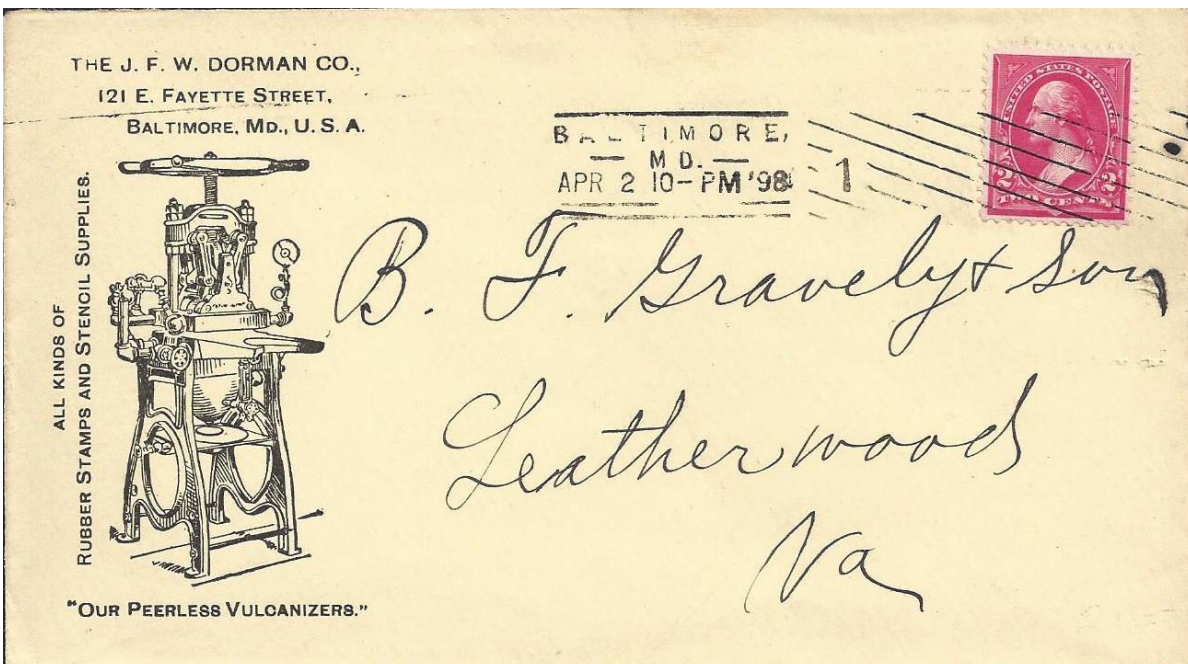


Fig. 2

" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "

No. 529.

POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

For the most complete line of articles
used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,
" Note Headings,
Stamp Ribbons (all colors),
Money Order Daters,
Post-Office Daters,
Registered Letter Daters,
Received Daters,
Patent Inking Pads,
P. O. Canceling Ink (*by Express*),
P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,
Twine Cutters,
Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,
Coin Detectors,
Paper Weights,
Letter and Package Scales,
Check Protectors,
Gem Type Case,

THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Cancellor,
Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in
Walnut case with tweezers, and all the sin-
gle line stamps needed in a **UNCLAIMED**
Post Office, this style type:

By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price,
\$3.00.

PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.

Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much.
JOHN CECIL, P. M., California, Md.

The \$5 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this even-
ing. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfac-
tion. — JAS. S. MARINO, P. M., Orangeburg, N. Y.

The Rubber Stamps, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all
right and met with favor with those who have examined
them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability. — T. W. LAT-
TICE, P. M., Picture Rocks, Pa.

I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last
year and it gives satisfaction. — W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Shef-
field, Iowa.

I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K.
Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations.
WM. J. KING, P. M., Maxville, Mo.

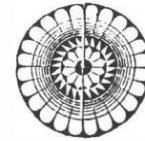
The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS.
COON, P. M., Albion, Idaho.

Your Box Record received, and is all O. K. — J. W. FROW,
P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.

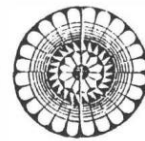
The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased
with them. — ED. S. MENARD, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.

Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies
sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of
Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address

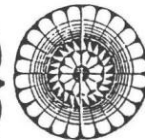
F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.



No. 530.



No. 531.



No. 532.

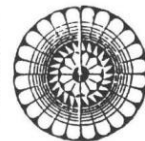


Fig. 3

The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide (Fig. 3). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin.

(Note: In the advertisement
under "Best Offer", this
Cancellor and kit cost \$3.00.)

I show the seven different cancellations found on WOF covers (Fig. 4)--six duplex and one with only the WOF die, coupled with many different circular date stamps as shown in the cover (Fig. 5).

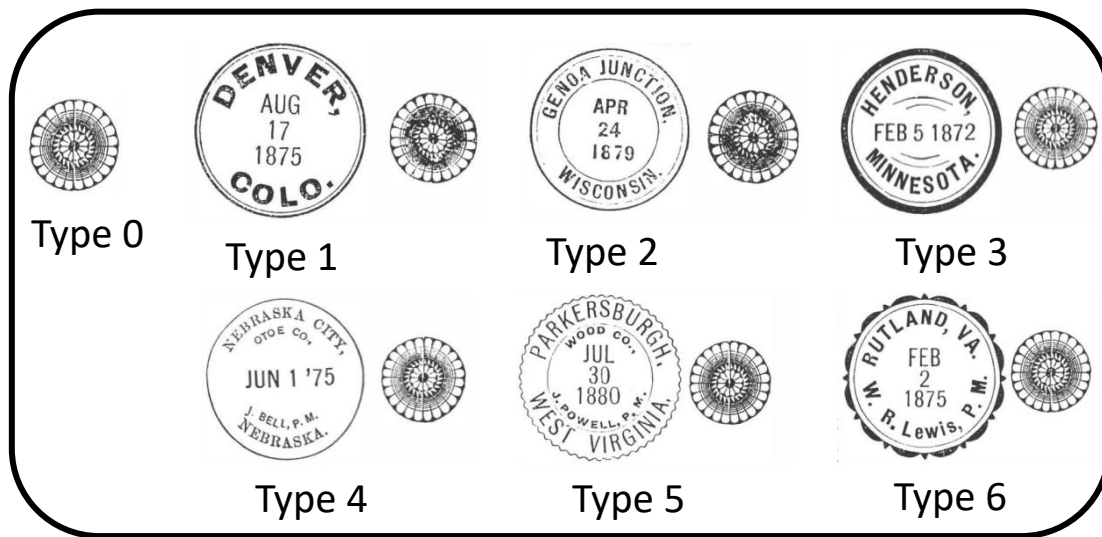


Fig. 4

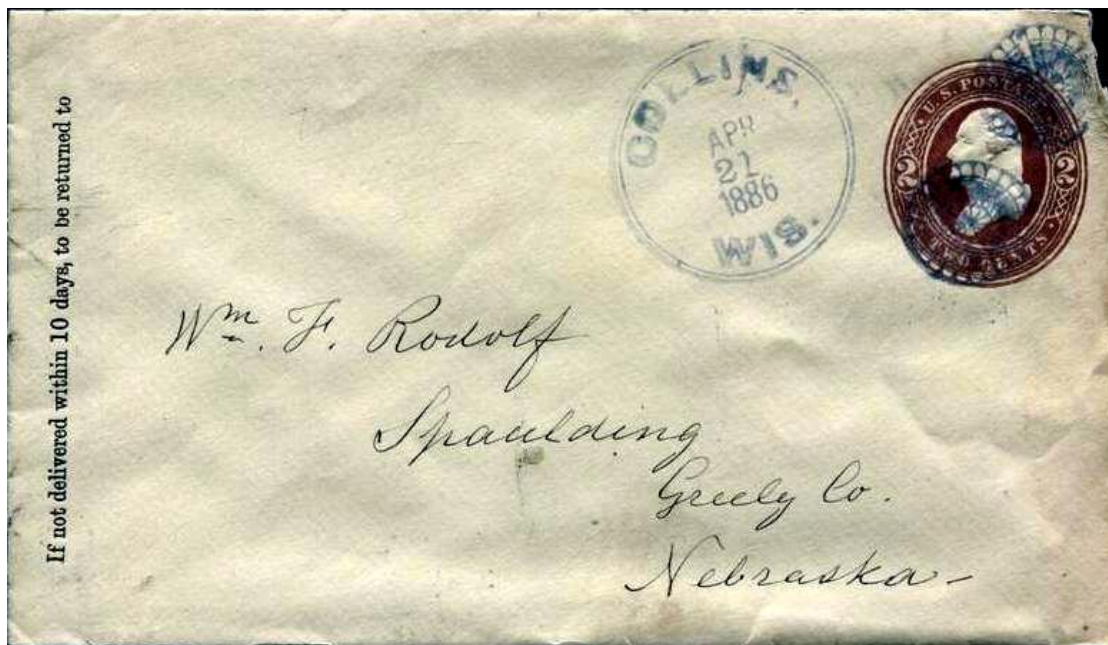


Fig. 5

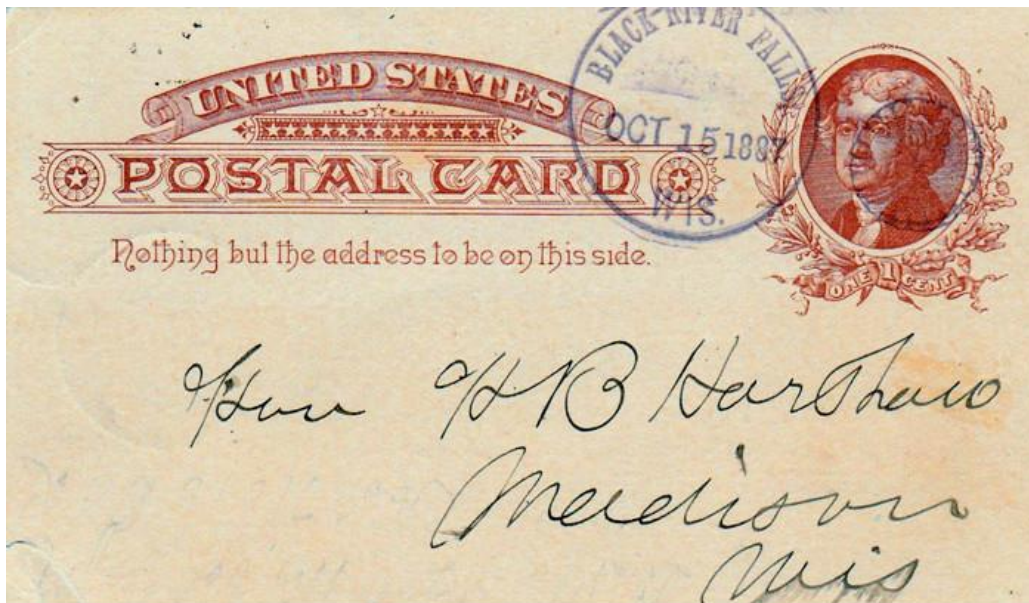
The 1995 book "Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894" by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for Wisconsin he listed 22 towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 23 Wisconsin WOF covers listed. To date, 33 different Wisconsin towns have been identified (Fig. 6). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.

Reference:

Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
 US Cancellation Club News
 Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane

| | | | | Usage | | Postmark Includes | Cover |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| count | Town | Photo | Range | type | County | | Date |
| 1 | WI Allenville * ** | p | 1884 | 1 | Winnebago County | | 84-3-3 |
| 2 | WI Ashland * ** | p | 1887 | 1 | Ashland and Bayfield counties | | 87-3-1 |
| | WI Ashland | p | 1887 | 1 | Ashland and Bayfield counties | | xx-2-17 |
| 3 | WI Atlanta ** | p | 1902 | 0 | Rusk County | | 02-3-13 |
| 4 | WI Bakerville * | | 1884 | | Wood County | | |
| 5 | WI Barron ** | | | | Barron County | | |
| 6 | WI Beloit * | | | | Rock County | | |
| 7 | WI Black River Falls * ** | p | 1887 | 3 | Jackson County | | 87-10-15 |
| 8 | WI Boaz ** | | | | Richland County | | |
| 9 | WI Cadott * | | 1884 | | Chippewa County | | |
| 10 | WI Caryville ** | p | 1887 | | Dunn County | Co | 87-12-7 |
| 11 | WI Cobb ** | | | | Iowa County | | |
| 12 | WI Collins ** | p | 1886 | 0 | Manitowoc County | | 86-4-21 |
| | WI Collins | p | 1886 | 0 | Manitowoc County | | xx-11-30 |
| 13 | WI Danville * ** | | 1889 | | Dodge County | | |
| 14 | WI Edwards * | | 1885 | | Manitowac County | | |
| 15 | WI Falls River * | | 1886 | | Columbia County | | |
| | WI Genoa Junction | p | 1886 | 2 | Kenosha & Walworth Counties | | 85-8-19 |
| 16 | WI Genoa Junction | p | 1886 | 2 | Kenosha & Walworth Counties | | 86-2-18 |
| | WI Genoa Junction ** | p | 1886 | 2 | Kenosha & Walworth Counties | | 86-5-5 |
| 17 | WI Grantsburg * ** | | 1887 | | Burnett County | | |
| 18 | WI Houlton * ** | | 1886 | | St Croix County | | |
| 19 | WI Hudson * ** | | | | St Croix County | | |
| 20 | WI Indian Ford ** | | | | Rock County | | |
| 21 | WI Jenny & Tomah Agt. * | | 1880 | | Monroe County | | |
| 22 | WI Mather * ** | p | 1881 | 2 | Juneau County | | 81-7-22 |
| 23 | WI Mauston | | | | Juneau County | | |
| 24 | WI Merrill & Tomah Agt. * | | 1880 | | Monroe County | | |
| 25 | WI New Lisbon * ** | p | 1880-91 | 2 | Juneau County | | 80-2-26 |
| | WI New Lisbon | p | 1880-91 | 2 | Juneau County | | 91-6-20 |
| | WI New Lisbon | p | 1880-91 | 2 | Juneau County | | 91-12-9 |
| 26 | WI Richfield ** | | | | Washington County | | |
| 27 | WI Schofield * ** | | 1884-5 | | Marathon County | | |
| 28 | WI Shiocton ** | p | 1884 | 1 | Outagamie County | | 84-6-23 |
| 29 | WI Sherry * | | 1885 | | Wood County | | |
| 30 | WI Shiocton * | | 1884 | | Outagamie County | | |
| 31 | WI Sparta * ** | p | 1880 | 2 | Monroe County | | 80-8-28 |
| | WI Sparta | p | 1880 | 2 | Monroe County | | 80-8-11 |
| 32 | WI Spring Prairie * ** | | 1885 | | Walworth County | | |
| 33 | WI Tomah * ** | | 1880-3 | | Monroe County | | |
| | * Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale | | | | | | |

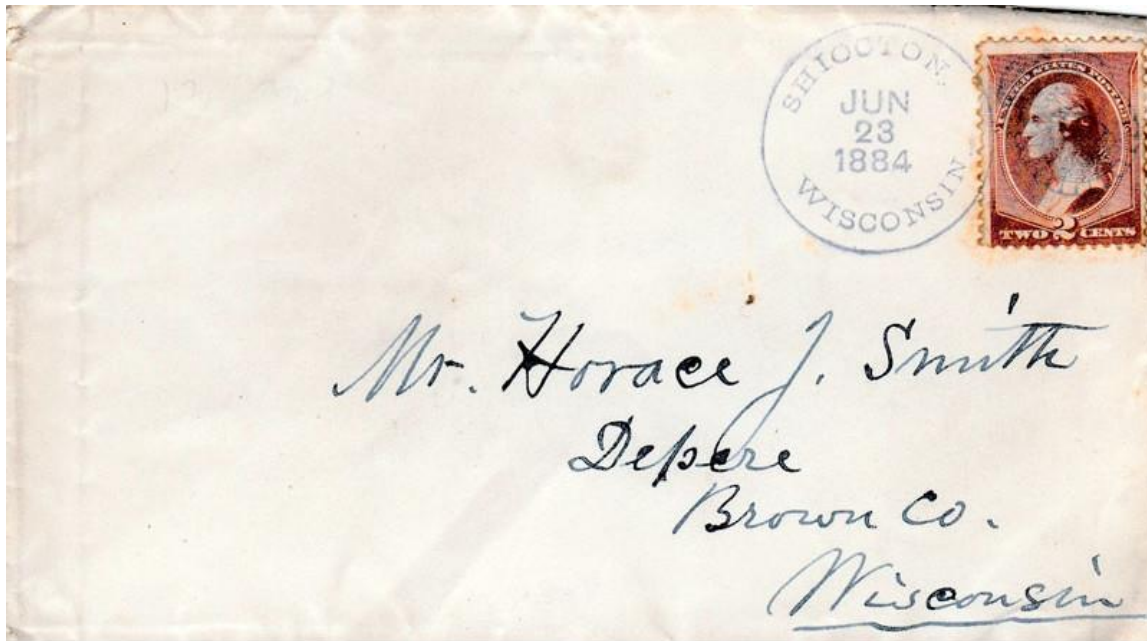
Fig. 6



Black River Falls, Wisc Oct 15, 1887



Mather, Wisconsin Jul 22, 1881



Shiocton, Wisconsin Jun 23, 1884



Sparta, Wisconsin Aug 11, 1880